

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PHNOM 09246 111344Z

42

ACTION EA-14

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 110930Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6848

INFO BANGKOK 7206

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 9246

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS CB

SUBJ: PARTIES AND PRESS REACT TO PEACE PROPOSALS

1. SUMMARY. INITIAL PHNOM PENH PRIVATE PRESS COMMENT ON THE GKR'S JULY 9 OFFER TO OPEN UNCONDITIONAL TALKS WITH THE "KHMER ON THE OTHER SIDE" PRAISES THE GOVERNMENT'S FLEXIBILITY AND URGES THE OTHER SIDE TO REALIZE THAT A MILITARY VICTORY IS IMPOSSIBLE AND THE DOOR TO PEACE IS NOW OPEN. THE RULING SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY AND ITS ALLY REPUBLICAN PARTY BOTH PREDICTABLY SUPPORTED THE INITIATIVE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRATS HAVE NOT YET FORMALLY REACTED. END SUMMARY.

2. WIDELY-READ DAILY KOH SANTIPHEAP (ISLAND OF PEACE) SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH THE REPUBLIC DOES NOT HAVE THE UPPER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PHNOM 09246 111344Z

HAND MILITARILY, REALISTS ON THE OTHER SIDE MUST UNDER

STAND THAT THEY CANNOT DEFEAT THE GKR ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THE DAILY WARNS, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST ENLARGE AND CONSOLIDATE ITS POPULAR BASE BEFORE THE OTHER SIDE WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ENTERING INTO TALKS. MOHARATH KHMER (GREAT KHMER NATION) SEES THE PROPOSAL AS THE PATH TO PEACE AND NOTES THAT ITS KEY FEATURE IS THE FACT THAT ALL PROBLEMS ARE SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION. DAILY AREYTHOR (CIVILIZATION) BELIEVES THAT THE OFFER SHOWS THE GKR'S SINCERE DESIRE FOR PEACE, DEPLORES THE SUFFERING AND DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY THE WAR, AND ASKS LEADERS OF THE OTHER SIDE TO RECOGNIZE THE GKR'S FLEXIBILITY AND SEEK RECONCILIATION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE RULING SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE INITIATIVE, AND ASKED ITS MEMBERS TO EXPLAIN THE OFFER TO THE PEOPLE. (ONE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN DEPUTY SAID HE HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPLAINING THE PROPOSAL IN HIS CONTACTS WITH THE PEOPLE IN THE CAPITAL.) FOLLOWING IS THE INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY RESOLUTION:

BEGIN TEXT: HAVING TAKEN NOTE OF PRESIDENT LON NOL'S JULY 9, 1974, MESSAGE CONCERNING PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NO PRIOR CONDITIONS WITH THE KHMER ON THE OTHER SIDE. CONVINCED THAT NATIONAL UNION IS THE FUNDAMENTAL BASE ON WHICH THE SURVIVAL OF THE KHMER HERITAGE RESTS, THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY

(A) APPROVES UNRESERVEDLY THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE;

(B) REQUESTS ITS MEMBERS TO SPREAD, EXPLAIN AND BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL;

(C) IMMEDIATELY ASKS THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MOVEMENTS FOR PEACE, FOR THE DEFENSE OF JUSTICE AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN AS WELL AS PEACE AND JUSTICE-LOVING COUNTRIES HELP US SO THAT THE KHMER PEOPLE MIGHT LIVE IN PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, NEUTRALITY, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. PHNOM PENH JULY 10, 1974.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY. END TEXT

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 09246 111344Z

4. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, WHICH PARTICIPATES IN THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND A NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS, DECLARED TOTAL AND ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE PEACE PROPOSAL. FOLLOWING IS THE INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY RESOLUTION:

BEGIN TEXT: CONSIDERING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC'S JULY 9, 1974, MESSAGE CONCERNING PROPOSALS FOR ENTERING INTO

NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS WITH THE KHMER ON THE
OTHER SIDE.
CONSIDERING THAT THIS INITIATIVE CAN LEAD TO
THE PEACE WHICH ALL KHMER DESIRE.
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY TOTALLY ESPOUSES THIS POINT
OF VIEW AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED
IN THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC'S MESSAGE. PHNOM
PENH JULY 10, 1974. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SISOWATH
SIRIK MATAK. END TEXT.
DEAN

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